

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 23, 2008, has been carefully reviewed, and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 18-23 are pending in this application. Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 stand rejected. Claims 1-17 have been canceled. Claims 18-23 are newly added.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner for courtesies extended to the Applicants' representatives during a telephonic interview conducted May 14, 2008. During the interview the rejection of Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 was discussed. While suggestions for adding additional structure to the claims were discussed, no agreement was reached.

The rejection of Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite is respectfully traversed. Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 have been canceled. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112 rejection of Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative as being obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 4,059,123 to Bartos et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Bartos") is respectfully traversed. Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 have been canceled. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 5,944,483 to Beck et al., as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 4,713,120 to Hodgins, II et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Hodgins") and Bartos is respectfully traversed. Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 have been canceled. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 and Section 103 rejections of Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 be withdrawn.

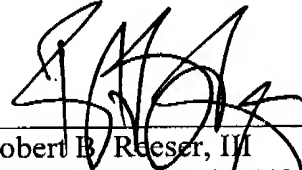
The rejection of Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,273,395 to McDermott et al. in view of Hodgens is respectfully traversed. Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 have been canceled. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 6-7, 9-12, and 14-16 be withdrawn.

With respect to newly added Claims 18 and 19, none of the art of record describes nor suggests a gas turbine engine as is recited in independent Claim 18. Specifically, none of the art of record describes nor suggests a gas turbine engine that includes a compressor, a pump, and a ring manifold coupled in fluid communication with the pump, wherein the ring manifold is mounted within the gas turbine engine upstream from the compressor, in combination with a plurality of circumferentially-spaced spray nozzles that are oriented to discharge a liquid radially inwardly into the gas turbine engine such that at least a portion of the compressor is coated with liquid discharged from the spray nozzles. Accordingly, Claim 18 is submitted as being patentable over the art of record. Claim 19 depends from Claim 18. When the recitations of Claim 19 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 18, Claim 19 is likewise submitted as being patentable over the art of record.

With respect to newly added Claims 20-23, none of the art of record describes nor suggests a washing system for a gas turbine engine as is recited in independent Claim 20. Specifically, none of the art of record describes nor suggests a washing system for a gas turbine engine, wherein the washing system includes a pump, a ring manifold coupled in fluid communication with the pump, wherein the ring manifold includes a plurality of circumferentially-spaced spray nozzles oriented to discharge a liquid radially inwardly into the gas turbine engine, and a controller that is configured to inject a first liquid into the gas turbine engine to facilitate removing particulate matter from the gas turbine engine, and inject a second liquid into the gas turbine engine to facilitate reducing a rate of formation of particulate matter within the gas turbine engine by suppressing electrostatic attraction within the gas turbine engine.” Accordingly, Claim 20 is submitted as being patentable over the art of record. Claims 21-23 depend from Claim 20. When the recitations of Claims 21-23 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 20, Claims 21-23 are likewise submitted as being patentable over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. B. Reeser, III', written over a horizontal line.

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